

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9236

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 6899

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MX

SUBJECT: MONTHLY POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS-JULY 1975

1. SUMMARY: THE DOWNWARD TREND OF MEXICO'S POLITICAL BAROMETER, WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED MAY AND JUNE, CONTINUED THROUGH THE FIRST PART OF JULY. THE WCIWY ENDED WITHOUT MISHAP, AND DOMESTIC ACTIVITY FROM THE FIRST TWO WEEKS WAS LARGELY RESTRICTED TO A SOMEWHAT DELAYED PUBLIC DEBATE OVER BUSINESSMEN ENTERING THE PRI WITH MORE SYMBOLISM THAN REAL MEANING (MEXICO 6421). IN GENERAL, EVENTS AND POLITICIANS SEEMED TO COOPERATE IN HEEDING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PARTING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LATTER TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE WHILE HE WAS ON HIS 42-DAY, 13 (LATER 14)-NATION TOUR OF THE THIRD WORLD.

2. BY THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY, HOWEVER, ACTIVITY HAD INCREASED APPRECIABLY. AN ATTACK BY AN AGRARIAN AFFAIRS BOSS FROM THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION ON CURRENT AGRARIAN REFORM AND EJIDAL POLICY QUICKLY DEVELOPED INTO A MUD-SLINGING CONTEST IN WHICH VERY FEW HANDS INVOLVED REMAINED CLEAN. THE CLUB OF ROME MET AT GUANJUATO FOR ITS ANNUAL DELIBERATIONS, BUT WHILE  
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THE MEXICANS ORIGINALLY FELT PRIDE AT HAVING HOSTED TWO

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES WITHIN ONE MONTH, THERE WAS VOCIFEROUS GENERAL DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE NON-GROWTH CONCLUSION OF THE CLUB, AND DOUBT THAT WCIWY HAD ADVANCED ANY OF MEXICO'S OWN PAROCHIAL INTERESTS. ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT, THERE WAS CONTINUOUS STRESS PLACED ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED TRIP BY ECHEVERRIA, PERHAPS JUSTIFIABLE CONTENTMENT WITH THE TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE EEC, AND JUBILATION OVER THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING AT SAN JOSE. JULY BEGAN QUIETLY, BUT TOWARD THE END OF THE MONTH THERE WERE A FEW POPS--IF NOT BANGS. END SUMMARY.

3. CLUB OF ROME: THE CLUB OF ROME HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETING JULY 24-26 IN GUANAJUATO, NORTH OF MEXICO CITY. (MEXICO 6864) OPEN MEETINGS AND EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE CONCENTRATED ON THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED NATIONS AND THE THIRD WORLD ADVOCATES WHO ARGUED THE NECESSITY OF IMPLEMENTING CERDS AS A BASIC DOCUMENT. DEPUTY FOREIGN SECRETARY GONZALEZ SOSA (PERHAPS PRIMING HIMSELF AS CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN SECRETARY IN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION.) AND OTHER GOM OFFICIALS STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE CLUB OF ROME AS PARTIAL TO THE DEVELOPED WORLD. SEVERAL COLUMNISTS AND CARTOONISTS ALSO STRESSED THE INCONGRUITY OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM LARGELY WEALTHY NATIONS MEETING IN LUSH SURROUNDINGS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND POVERTY. THE MEXICANS, WHO HAD BALLYHOOED THE OPENING OF THE MEETING WERE OBVIOUSLY MIFFED AT THEIR FAILURE TO MANIPULATE THE FINAL STATEMENT INTO AN EXPRESSION OF STRICTLY THIRD WORLD OBJECTIVES. THE CLOSED MEETINGS, HOWEVER, WERE REPORTEDLY MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE.

4. THE GREAT AGRARIAN POLICY DEBATE: IN RECENT WEEKS, A NATIONWIDE DEBATE HAS BOILED UP OVER WHAT SHOULD BE THE PROPER FOCUS FOR GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES TO "RESCUE" MEXICO'S RETARDED RURAL SECTOR. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FORCEFULLY COMMITTED HIS GOVERNMENT TO THAT EFFORT IN HIS INFORME LAST SEPTEMBER, UNDERSCORING HIS COMMITMENT BY ASSIGNING ONE-FIFTH OF THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL BUDGET TO RURAL PURPOSES. THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO DIVIDE THE PIE, HOWEVER, HAS GIVEN RISE TO A MORE BASIC QUESTION: WILL EMPHASIS GO TO RAISING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OR TO ACHIEVING THE "REVOLUTIONARY" CONFIDENTIAL

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SOCIAL GOALS OF PROVIDING LAND DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO MEXICO'S 30 MILLION OR SO PEASANTS.

5. ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF HAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVES BOTH GOALS MUST BE ACHIEVED: THE LOT OF THE INDIVIDUAL CAMPESINO MUST BE IMPROVED, THROUGH DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE LANDS, EASIER CREDITS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVED SOCIAL SERVICES, AND COLLECTIVIZATION; AT THE SAME TIME, FOOD PRODUCTION

FOR THE NATIONAL MARKET(NOW COMING MOSTLY FROM PRIVATELY OWNED AND OPERATED LANDS) MUST NOT BE SACRIFICED BY FEARS OF EXPROPRIATION.

6. BUT VIEWS OF OTHERS HAVE POLARIZED: THE AGRARIAN AFFAIRS BOSS UNDER THE PREVIOUS (DIAZ ORDAZ) ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY CHARGED THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERMINED FOOD PRODUCTION BY FUELING FEARS AMONG SMALL LANDHOLDERS THAT THEIR PROPERTIES WOULD BE EXPROPRIATED AND COLLECTIVIZED. AND ECHEVERRIA'S OWN TEMPORAL AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ADDED TO THE CONTROVERSY BY CHARGING THAT PRESENT AGRARIAN POLICY WAS AIMED MORE AT MOBILIZING PEASANT POLITICAL SUPPORT THAN AT PRODUCING FOOD.

7. A FIRESTORM OF ARCANE DEBATE HAS ENSUED, WITH INEVITABLE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHOICE OF ECHEVERRIA'S SUCCESSOR. PUT ON THE DEFENSIVE, THE PRESENT AGRARIAN POLICYMAKERS INSIST THAT THE SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE PEASANT MASS MUST COME FIRST AND ARGUE THAT PEASANT INTERESTS WERE NEGLECTED BY EARLIER ADMINISTRATIONS. THE PRO-PRODUCTION GROUP COUNTERS THAT MEXICO CANNOT AFFORD TO CONTINUE IMPORTING MILLIONS OF TONS OF FOOD GRAINS EACH YEAR TO FEED ITS BURGEONING POPULATION AND THAT FARM-OWNERS' RIGHTS MUST BE SECURED. PRESSURE IS HEAVY: BOTH GROUPS ARE AT BOTTOM SEEKING TO INFLUENCE ECHEVERRIA'S SELECTION OF THE MAN WHO WILL DETERMINE THE THRUST OF MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL AND AGRARIAN POLICY FOR THE NEXT SIX YEARS-- AND THUS REDEFINE REVOLUTIONARY IDEOLOGY IN TERMS OF THE BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9237

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AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

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8. FOREIGN RELATIONS: MEXICO'S ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY REACHED NEW HEIGHTS IN LATE JULY. THE MEXICANS OBVIOUSLY INTERPRETED THEIR HOSTING OF THE CLUB OF ROME AT GUANAJUATO, LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER WCIWY, AS A SYMBOL OF MEXICO'S INCREASING INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S 14 NATION TOUR, OF COURSE, IS BEING TOUTED AS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC WAS THE FIRST SUCH AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE COMMON MARKET BY A LATIN AMERICAN NATION. THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS TAKING MAXIMUM CREDIT FOR THE OUTCOME AT SAN JOSE. AND, IN A SPORTS NOTE WITH OBVIOUS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, MEXICO ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL NO LONGER PARTICIPATE IN DAVIS CUP COMPETITION UNTIL SOUTH AFRICANS ARE EXPELLED.  
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9. MEXICO EEC SIGN COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT: MEXICO AND THE EEC SIGNED ON JULY 15 IN BRUSSELS A COMMERCIAL CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT TO "PROMOTE COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING AND DIVERSIFYING TRADE." THIS IS A FIVE-YEAR NON-PREFERENTIAL MOST FAVORED NATION(MFN) AGREEMENT SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN SIGNED WITH NON-EEC DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, E.G., INDIA AND ISRAEL. THE GOM, HOWEVER, MADE MUCH OF THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE FIRST SUCH AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE EEC WITH A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY.

10. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S TOUR: ECHEVERRIA, CURRENTLY AT THE MID-POINT OF HIS TOUR OF AFRICAN, ASIAN AND CARIBBEAN NATIONS, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL VISIT JORDAN ON AN UN-SPECIFIED DATE, BRINGING TO 14 THE NUMBER OF NATIONS HE WILL VISIT. TO DATE, THE TOUR HAS BEEN NOTEWORTHY FOR ONE THING WHICH HAS HAPPENED AND ANOTHER WHICH HAS NOT.

FIRST, IRAN AND MEXICO AGREED TO SET UP A JOINT FUND TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH THE MEXICAN PRESS TOUTED THIS A "PRACTICALLY LIMITLESS FUND", REPORTS FROM TEHRAN INDICATE THAT THE IRANIAN COMMITMENT MAY HAVE SOME IMPORTANT QUALIFICATIONS AND LIMITS (SEE TEHRAN 7091). SECOND, ALTHOUGH MEXICAN MEMBERSHIP IN OPEC WAS A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION DURING HIS VISITS TO ALGERIA, IRAN, AND KUWAIT, ECHEVERRIA HAS MANAGED TO RESIST THE PRESSURES TO JOIN AND TO PAPER OVER DIFFERENCES EXISTING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS VARIOUS HOSTS. IN ADDITION, ECHEVERRIA'S TOUR HAS RESULTED IN A PREDICTABLE SPATE OF ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS OF DUBIOUS SIGNIFICANCE, AS WELL AS A TYPICAL QUOTA OF POLITICAL BACK-SCRATCHING.

11. U.N. SECRETARY GENERALSHIP: PUBLICLY ECHEVERRIA IS CURRENTLY DOWNPLAYING HIS OWN CANDIDACY WHILE ADVOCATING THAT THE NEXT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN SHOULD COME FROM THE THIRD WORLD. DISCLAIMERS NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT PROMOTION OF ECHEVERRIA'S CANDIDACY IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF HIS CURRENT 14 NATION TOUR. TO DATE, THREE CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS (COSTA RICA, JAMAICA AND GUYANA) HAVE ENDORSED ECHEVERRIA FOR UN SECRETARY GENERAL.

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12. MEXICO CLAIMS CREDIT FOR ENDING CUBA SANCTIONS THE GOM IS PREENING ITSELF OVER HAVING SECURED, FIRST, HEMISPHERIC AGREEMENT TO MODIFY TERMS FOR LIFTING SANCTIONS APPLIED UNDER THE RIO TREATY, AND NOW, OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR ACTION ALLOWING EACH TREATY SIGNATORY TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHETHER IT WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY SANCTIONS IMPOSED AGAINST CUBA IN 1964.

13. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SOURLY COMMENTED THAT THE RIO TREATY CHANGES VOTED AT THE PLENIPONTERIA CONFERENCE IN SAN JOSE LAST WEEK WERE "TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE", FONSEC RABASA COULD HARDLY CONTAIN HIS DELIGHT AT THE FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY THE 16TH MFM JULY 29, CALLING THE ACTION "LIBERATION DAY FOR THE AMERICAS". ALONE AMONG OAS MEMBER STATES, MEXICO HAD REFUSED FROM THE FIRST TO GO ALONG WITH IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT (ALTHOUGH ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA WERE SELDOM MORE THAN COOL AND CORRECT DURING THE 'SIXTIES). AT QUITO EARLIER THIS YEAR, MEXICO JOINED IN LEADING AN EMBARRASSINGLY UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO OVERTURN THE SANCTIONS BY THE PREVIOUSLY-REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS VOTE. SINCE THEN, IT HAS ASSIDUOUSLY PROMOTED REVISION OF THE TREATY TO PERMIT, INTER ALIA, LIFTING SANCTIONS BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY.

14. ACHIEVEMENT OF THE LATTER GOAL AT SAN JOSE(ALTHOUGH STILL REQUIRING RATIFICATION BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS) LAID THE THEORETICAL BASIS FOR RELAXING SANCTIONS AND FREEING GOVERNMENTS TO DEAL WITH CASTRO AS EACH ONE SEES FIT. THIS WEEK'S DECISION BY HEMISPHERIC FOREIGN MINISTERS ENDORSING SUCH "FREEDOM OF ACTION" WAS VINDICATION, AS FAR AS MEXICO WAS CONCERNED, THAT IT WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG ABOUT THE CUBA SANCTIONS.  
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